



Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



Friday, July 23, 2004

Superintendent

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 7/26	– In the Park
Tuesday, 7/27	– In the Park
Wed., 7/28	– Austin, TX
Thurs., 7/29	– In the Park
Friday, 7/30	– In the Park

Safety Notes--

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

The Following Safety Message was submitted by Randy Larson:

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations.

In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that:

Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes

Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition

Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat! , Etc.

Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, (i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.)

To sum it up, here are the: Four Rules for Safe Refueling

- 1) Turn off engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched **150 cases of these fires.**

His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started, as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- 8) Seventeen fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas.

If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

As I mentioned earlier, The Petroleum Equipment Institute, along with several other companies now, are really trying to make the public aware of this danger. You can find out more information by going to <http://www.pei.org/> . Once here, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static".

I ask you to please send this information to ALL your family and friends, especially those who have kids in the car with them while pumping gas. If this were to happen to them, they may not be able to get the children out in time. Thanks for passing this along.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.
Make it a safe day.

Employees Association News -

Administration

Ruby has two 5 drawer filing cabinets. One is legal size and locks with a key. It will need some work to make the lock work, but this should be no problem with a little elbow grease. The other cabinet is letter size and does not lock. Both cabinets are the old green gun metal color and are in great condition. First come first served!

The Supervisory Park Ranger (Protection), GS-0025-11/12, will be open from July 9 -27. It will be posted on USAJOBS and on the HQ bulletin board.

FEGLI Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.

UNIFORMS

Within the next 2 1/2 weeks, Cargo Pants and Convertible trousers will appear on the uniform website. Employees will be able to order these items, but they will not be physically in stock with VF Solutions. It may take about 2 months before employees will be able to receive these items. We are putting them on the website now so they can order them before the ordering period ends on August 21st. I would not recommend that seasonals order these items yet. They are not in stock. It will take at least 2 months before these items will be shipped out to employees.

Last Day to Order Uniforms is August 21!

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

Resolving Performance Issues	08/10/2004	Tuesday	2:00-2:00
Dealing with Misconduct	08/10/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00 -4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00

The trailer will be used for TEL training on August 10th.

Facility Management

Mary Kobus recently talked with Anne and Frank Tucker in Pennsylvania. They are doing well and send everyone their best wishes.

Kudos to both Mary Kobus and Sam Brown for waxing the floor in the new IMRO Concessions' office. It was hard work and the floor looks fantastic.

Please continue logging your fuel at the fuel tanks:

- Tank #4 for park owned vehicles
- Tank #3 for GSA vehicles

The automatic system will not be repaired due to the high cost. The new system will be installed next month. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Interpretation

Juan is in Brownsville July 19 - 23 for a planning meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One of their area units, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, is developing a comprehensive interpretive plan. Juan will assist as needed.

The past weekend was exceptionally busy. Program attendance continues to be excellent and we are receiving a noticeable increase in education program interest from church groups and groups such as United Way. The bigger crowds have also resulted in more first aid cases such as jellyfish stings and stingray wounds. A special thanks goes out to the Protection division for their assistance with the ambulatory patient.

The summer staff are assisting with a much needed overhaul of our "auditorium". Since there is a long-range plan to build a modern well equipped replacement, this will simply serve as an upgrade for the interim. We have received new padded chairs and are ordering replacement curtains plus other upgrades that should make it more presentable and comfortable for visitors and staff.

Protection

Congratulations to Kaci Messenger who has been selected as a Telecommunications Equipment Operator. Kaci is currently working for the Transportation Security Administration in Evansville, IN. Previous experience included work as a dispatcher for a Sheriffs Department that provided dispatch and 911 service to 13 cities and a medium sized sheriff department.

The park radio team met with Motorola Engineers earlier this week. The engineers will be completing a systems design for the park that will include engineering specs for our future radio infrastructure as well as talk group and user group radio channel configurations.

Thanks to Jeanie Vivian for all her support to the ranger division the last couple of months. She has processed a volume of paperwork in the recruitment of seven new positions. Thank you for all your hard work.

Please see the attached Career Opportunity for a temporary position as a Ranger Field Supervisor.



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Radio Tip #2

Do NOT charge your battery with the radio on while it sits in the charger. The Motorola XTS5000 uses a Nichol-Metal Hydride battery which is different than our previous Ni-Cad Batteries. If you leave your radio on while charging, the charger will send voltage pulses that will overcharge and cause damage to the battery. The proper procedure with these new radios is to turn off your radio while charging. If in fact you are swapping out batteries (that is why you were given two batteries) you can have one battery charging while the radio is still functional with the second battery. It will take a little getting used to, but the downside of not changing our charging practices will be a dead battery much quicker than should be.

The ranger division will be involved in a law enforcement program review Aug 3-5. Three team members from outside the park will audit our program based on a standard regional evaluation process. Division Chiefs and ranger staff will be interviewed as part of the evaluation.

If you thought based on your observations that visitation is up this year you're right! Visitation through June is 333,478 which is up from 289,386, a 15% increase.

Resources Management

Personnel:

- Michelle Kolar has accepted the 2nd biotech position. Michelle is currently completing an internship with US Fish and Wildlife and completing her graduate degree in Environmental Science. She also has is coordinating the Snowy Plover and Wilson Plover census for the Texas coast. She will be starting work here on September 7. Michelle will be a great addition to the RM staff.

Projects:

- We are currently completing compliance and issuing permits for several projects within the park. Sunny Beaches and the Ocean Conservancy have requested a permit to collect marine debris from

two 500 meter sections, one on closed beach and one at the 5 MM. The data collected will be entered into a national database for marine debris monitoring. Other projects include an ozone monitoring system to be installed at the old view tower and the construction of the new turtle lab.

- Steve Liptay, National Audubon Society, has completed the Snowy and Wilson Plover Nesting Survey. Steve located and documented 80 Snowy Plover and 230 Wilson Plover nests. The park has never had a comprehensive survey of these species until this year. Thanks Steve!!

The following windsurfing gear is for sale:

- Mistral Shredder
- Mistral Screamer
- Fiberglass, Aluminum and Carbon-graphite masts
- (5) Quiver of windsurfing sails, 5.3m to 6.5m size all Neil Pryde
- North booms with extensions

All are in excellent condition, never jumped and about 1993 vintage. I am a motivated seller, best offer takes all. Please contact Gordon Day at gday@stx.rr.com

Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

No new sea turtle nests were found on the Texas coast this week. However, after examining embryos in unhatched eggs that had been retrieved from the corral in Boca Chica Beach we have identified the "loggerhead" nest found there in June as a Kemp's ridley nest. The tracks and eggs of these species are easily confused, so close examination of the hatchlings and embryos is often needed to identify species when the nesting female was not present at the nest site.

So far this year, **41** Kemp's ridley, one loggerhead, and one green turtle nest have been found on the Texas coast this year. Twenty-two of the Kemp's ridley nests, the loggerhead nest, and the green turtle nest were found at Padre Island National Seashore.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notified Donna that four other Kemp's ridley nests may have been found in the U.S. this year, all in northwest Florida, and requested that she aid with species identification for these nests. She will be sent unhatched eggs and dead hatchlings/embryos from these nests after they undergo full-term incubation.

Nests 27-29 released - At about 7 pm on July 15, staff from the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery released 83 hatchlings from clutch 27. We released three stragglers from this clutch of 97 eggs at about 7:00 am on July 17. At about 6:30 am on July 20, we released 96 hatchlings from the 102 eggs in clutch 28. About 75 people attended a public release that we held on July 19 where we released 113 hatchlings from the 117 eggs in clutch 29. For those people interested in seeing a release this year, please try to come to see one now. As reflected in the table below listing the predicted release dates, the last window for large releases and fairly good certainty of seeing a release this year occurs when hatchlings from seven nests (nests 30-36) will be released between about July 22 and 27, with the largest release likely somewhere in the middle of those dates.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT
THE
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

Nest # (Species)	Date Found	Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates
30-34 (Kemp's ridley)	June 5	July 21-27
35 (Kemp's ridley)	June 6	July 22-28
36 (Kemp's ridley)	June 8	July 24-30
38 (Loggerhead)	June 13	August 1-6
40 (Kemp's ridley)	June 16	August 1-7
41 (Kemp's ridley)	June 21	August 6-12
42 (Kemp's ridley)	June 22	August 7-13
43 (Green)	July 1	August 20-25

Last week we said good-bye to many of our division staff members who reached the end of their appointments when the regular nesting patrols and camping ended on July 17. Division staff now include: Donna Shaver, Cynthia Rubio, Rachael Blair, Shara Kilarski, Dale

Kohlmetz, Linda Morehead, Jennifer "Shelby" Shelby, and Nancy Echols.

We have resumed our once-per-day patrols to the Mansfield Channel and back to Headquarters. These patrols will continue through the end of September in the last of the three-year exploratory study to see if we are missing sea turtle nests with our regular nesting patrols (which end in mid-July). We document and protect any nesting and stranded sea turtles that are found on these patrols. Linda will conduct the patrols on Sundays through Wednesdays and volunteers will make these runs on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Cynthia and Rachael will continue to work weekends through the end of egg incubation (currently late-August) and the other staff will work weekdays.

Career Opportunity

Padre Island National Seashore

Ranger Division

July 22, 2004

POSITION: Temporary Field Supervisor

OPEN: 07/25/04

CLOSE: 08/04/04

LOCATION: Padre Island National Seashore

TIME: Not to exceed 120 days

TYPE: Temporary non-promotion



BRIEF STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Serves as Temporary Field Supervisor for newly hired employees until the permanent Ranger Operations Supervisor has been hired.

- Is responsible for supervising and directing new ranger personnel in all phases of resource protection and visitor management functions. Activities include law enforcement, emergency medical services, wildland fire protection, boat operations, search and rescue, smuggling operations, and other ranger responsibilities.
- Provides direct supervision to 4 permanent full time FTE.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Applicant must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-09 level. Specialized experience is: Experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled.

TO APPLY:

Fill out the following narrative response summarizing your qualifications and why you would like this temporary position. **Send to Randy Larson or Jeanie Vivian by August 4, 2004.**

WHAT CAN THIS DO FOR YOU

- Develop and demonstrate management abilities
- Develop oral and written communication skills
- Develop conflict resolution skills
- Broaden awareness of supervisory responsibilities

CAREER OPPORTUNITY NOMINATION FORM

To: Randy Larson / Jeanie Goff

Name of Employee: _____

Please consider me for Career Opportunity: Temporary Field Supervisor

Why do you have an interest in assuming this position?

What skills and abilities do you possess to support your nomination?

Requested by:

Signature of Employee

Date